

Schlosser Plans To Close Office After 38 Years

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Dr. Schlosser said he thinks it is definitely a life-saving technique when used on a child pulled from a swimming pool, but it is unwise when used on a 75-year-old cancer patient who has heart problems.

Dr. Schlosser is in agreement with the mandatory government regulation that physicians must have 50 hours of schooling annually in order to keep their license.

He is not generally in favor of government intervention. For instance, "the FDA," he said, "has taken drugs off the market which doctors saw work." He went on to say at times the results were more psychological than the drug itself. "But, it did not do any harm," he said.

When asked about the recently enacted mandatory immunization program for school children, he said, "I still believe in individuals having their rights. It is desirable (that all children be immunized), but you can't legislate good health." He said it would be better to have parents taught so they realize why the immunizations are necessary and have them respond accordingly, rather than require the procedures.

On the other hand, Dr. Schlosser is upset small pox vaccinations are no longer required. "If it ever hits, there will be a major epidemic. With the jet age," he said, "people are traveling all over the world. That possibility is there." He realizes there are chances of reaction, but sees them as minor compared to what could happen. He offered an analogy — "You wouldn't take the roof off your house because your floor has not been wet for 20 years."

"Life is constantly a gamble," he said. Doctors, perhaps more than people in any other profession, must bet they are performing their duties correctly. The bet is costly — in the form of malpractice insurance. Dr. Schlosser recalled paying \$75 a year when he started compared to "close to \$2,000 a year" now. "You must have it," he said, "whether you want to or not."

The threat of being sued has caused doctors to practice defensively, according to Dr. Schlosser. "You order tests which are probably not necessary, but you must cover yourself," he explained.

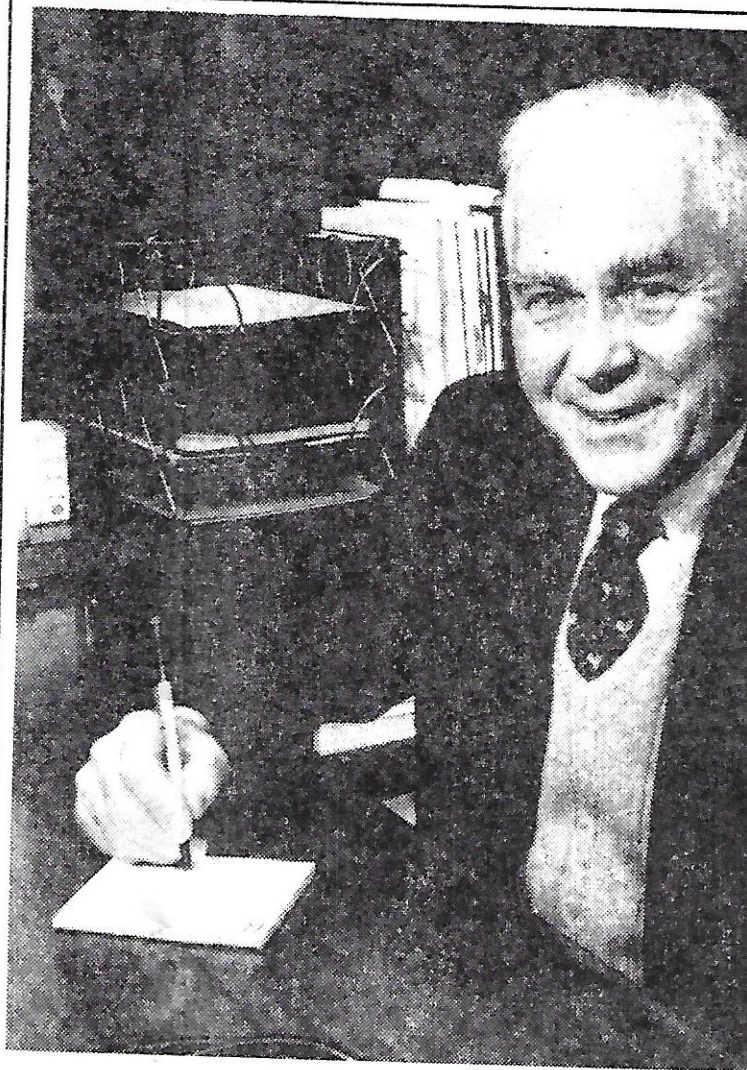
Those tests, of course, add more to the patients' bills — bills, which more often than not are paid by insurance companies. Schlosser estimated 75 to 90 percent of the bills today are paid by insurance. The paperwork necessitated by this manner of payment is "one thing I will not miss," he said.

What will he miss? "First of all, I'll miss the kids," was his quick reply. "Over the years I think I've developed a rapport with the kids." His ever-present filled lollipop tree has helped. But, just as a lot of other things have changed, so has the size of lollipops. "They used to be about the size of jaw breakers for the same price," he quipped.

Even though he will miss his younger patients, with his retirement he will have more time to spend with his own three children: Nancy, wife of Edward Garabed, Philadelphia, David, Neffsville, and Sue, wife of Drew Hostetter, Baltimore; and his three grandchildren.

He will also have more time to devote to his tennis and bridge. A tournament bridge player, he has been in tourneys in many states as well as in Canada and Bermuda.

However, he will not have to venture far from his home to keep busy. "I have 10 acres of woods to maintain," he said. Is there much doubt as to why he is now taking woodworking courses and plans "to do a lot of woodworking."



Mount Joy physician David E. Schlosser has announced retiring at the end of this year.

Schlosser Will End Practice In Mt. Joy

By Sharon Brown

Intelligencer Journal Correspondent

When David E. Schlosser, M.D. started his practice 38 years ago the government did not intervene as much, medicine was not the "business" it is now and lollipops were bigger.

The Mount Joy physician opened his office at 304 E. Main St. on Nov. 23, 1945. Dr. Schlosser, also a noted local pianist and organist, has announced he will retire from his practice at the end of this year.

The 66-year-old professional did not have boyhood dreams of being a doctor. His first ambition was to be a concert pianist. After hearing auditions at the Peabody Conservatory of Music he said, "I knew I'd never make it, so I gave it up." There had been several doctors in his family, and he finally decided to pursue medicine as a career.

Although he started at the same place where he is still doctoring, it was not quite the same. His original office was one room. That is now his waiting room. A small vestibule served as the waiting area.

"We had no running water in the office," he remembered. "There was a screen set up behind which patients could disrobe." In later years a porch was enclosed and an addition was built giving him the consultation and examining rooms he now has.

Dr. Schlosser moved into the living space in the same building as his office in 1946. He and his wife, Eleanor, moved into a new home outside the borough in 1978.

"Living" at the office was really an advantage to him. "When I got a call in the middle of the night," he said, "I could just go."

to 1957. "We didn't make house calls there. They came to the house," he recalled. Even with fevers of 103 degrees taken to the dispensary in weeks 40 degrees below zero.

"I realized it was not that necessary to make house calls," he said. "It is obvious there are still times when they are necessary, and make them," he added.

Dr. Schlosser delivered about 800 babies in his 38-year practice. He stopped delivering about 16 years ago. "I loved it," he explained, but, "I didn't specialize in obstetrics." He also gave up his work.

Schlosser said he felt tired from to and being in the hospital took him from his office practice.

"I like to sit and talk with people," he explained. "At that time (when a patient is in the office) are the most important person," he said that except in rare cases he was called to an emergency. "I feel reasonably sure no one has been rushed through here. I have given people as much time as they need."

He also said medicine is less specialized nowadays. "You can be on top of everything," he said. "I see the family doctor as an intelligent screener," sending patients to others who are specialized in the field required for the ailment.

Along with specialization, there have come many advances in sciences and medical techniques. Schlosser recalled being a student